

ACORN



The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario

A society incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of the architecture of the province, and for the protection of its places of natural beauty.

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SPRING 1980

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario R Newsletter

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The Cover

BRICKS OF A FEATHER

In the course of repairs and salvage of brick from old buildings being dismantled, some interesting finds and records of history sometimes come to light. Occasionally numbers are scratched on to one face of a brick to signify, we presume, the number of hundreds or thousands stacked to dry, or perhaps even the production of that season. Sometimes an errant animal leaves a paw print — a skunk wandering in the dusk over the freshly moulded forms, or a coon having a last pre-dawn romp. We have seen piglets' trotters planted firmly as well as a gobble's foot, not to mention the distinct imprints of women's heels, perhaps engaging in the chase. So far we have found two "calculator" bricks where numbers have been multiplied — correctly — to mark a stage in production or the material ready for a burn.

But the most delightful find so far was the discovery, quite by chance, of a brick with the image of a bird carefully drawn on one face, in graffito. It was discovered in re-piling brick removed from the upper wall of the Cameron-Farren House of c. 1817 in the Irishtown area of the old Town of Niagara, and across from the site of the second Courthouse. Those who had taken down the brick had not noticed this design, or had failed to attach any importance to it. But already interested by previous finds, the writer was fascinated by this more than casual sketch. Was it a symbol? Did it signify a name or was it, in fact, a portrait?

For it is well known that the bird is sometimes used as the symbol of a builder and of building, a natural extension of the bird's own ability to construct a nest. From there one can consider classical references such as the Birds of Aristophanes, where various interpretations can be made. Did the bird from the "cottage" symbolize the builder or the making of building materials? We think not, for the connection seems remote if not irrelevant. We wondered, however, if the maker of the brick was a Byrd, or Bird or even Vogel — and then our imagination took over the thought that here was someone who was signing his name to his product, a jaunty gesture to the brick-making season. The bird did not look like a wren — (and Sir Christopher came to mind), but what of Pigeon or Partridge, Sparrow or Martin, Bunting or Quail, Lark or Swallow? And so it could go on. But the design did not resemble a swan or a peacock, neither a gosling nor a parrot. Perhaps a finch was there, or a swift, at a stretch of perspective a crow or a hawk, but certainly neither crane nor heron.

But the bird on the brick appears to be just alighting. It might have been a robin, an Upper Canadian robin, seen for the first time by a young Irish or English lad on his first job after emigrating (and aspiring to greater opportunities in the new land) who, astounded by this red-breast's size, determined to record it for his own self-satisfaction and for posterity, perhaps for the joy to be rediscovered over a century and half later. (Or maybe his sister on a ramble round the yard did it for him, behind his back!). Such a feeling has been shared by a more recent immigrant — in the fabulous colours of a Canadian fall.

Or should we go further and take the interpretation of the bird as a symbol to parallel one reading of Aristophanes' work, namely that preservation might really be reserved for the gods? Sometimes it seems one is up in the clouds far from one's fellow beings, but seldom on cloud nine, lest it be cloud-cuckoo land, with the constant feeling of being jostled out of a carefully built nest.

PJS

EDITORIAL

Heritage Canada is still being thought of incorrectly as a government organization. It is not. But it has seen fit to change its name to The Heritage Canada Foundation. Although its name suggests 'government', as does The National Trust for Scotland, Heritage Canada Foundation is a private charitable foundation. Among its many projects, the organization is trying to get the income tax act changed so that it will not be cheaper to tear down a building and put up a new one than to save the old one. Further to saving our heritage, Mr. Berton and Heritage Canada Foundation are trying their best to make Heritage Day a holiday.

* * * * *

Our contributing editor is not the only one who disparages the spoiling of our countryside, towns, and cities by the trappings of hydro and phone companies. As far back as 1913, Rupert Brooke, in a journey through Canada, noticed: "Even the Canadian habit of loading the streets with heavy telephone wires, supported by frequent black poles, - -".

* * * * *

ACORN'S editor is compiling a list of 'reasons', and asks readers to send in any which relate to architecture. We think we know the **reason** why Georgian windows had such small panes, why houses were built with 1½ and 2½ storeys instead of two and three, and why the pickets in picket fences were pointed. Can you add to the list?

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Having only recently picked up the reins from our distinguished Past President, Peter John Stokes, I have to admit to a certain lack of skill in handling our daily struggles. My report therefore glows with only one bright spot.

In January, I attended the inaugural meeting of what promises to be an active new branch of the Conservancy in Kitchener. The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Marg. Rowell and was chaired by Jim Weller. About 18 people attended, almost all of whom were already involved in some aspects of Conservation. Katherine Hebblethwaite of Heritage Cambridge was also present and contributed much useful information. They are holding further organization meetings and appear to be on the road to a strong start.

On the darker side, the efforts of our Advisory Board to point out to The Niagara-on-the-Lake Council, the very poor design of a proposed new structure in that important town was met with accusations that our representatives' professional integrity was suspect. Despite our strong protest to the Mayor and Council, no apology or even reply has been received — and the structure appears to have the Town's approval.

We are sorry for the distress this has caused to our representatives, Howard Walker and Howard Chapman. It is inevitable that our efforts will be rebuffed on occasion. This is understandable, but an attack on the integrity of the Conservancy or its representatives is not.

Despite the efforts of Heritage Canada, the Ontario Heritage Foundation and a local committee which includes Kent Rawson of Toronto Region Branch, the Canada Trust Co. appears set on the destruction of the Wyndham Block in Guelph. This block is one of very few pre-confederation groups of shops remaining in Ontario and deserves our strongest efforts to insure its preservation.

NEWS FROM EAST TO WEST

from the Branches

PORT HOPE

The first meeting of the Port Hope LACAC for the new year was held on January 8. It has been a busy year for the various members, with much time spent on research of houses and buildings in the town.

LACAC has had requests from owners of homes and buildings who wish their places to be designated. The latest request came from Mr. and Mrs. Farley Mowat. Several of these houses have been processed and their files are at the town hall awaiting action. However, they could not be designated during 1979 as LACAC's budget was eaten up by legal fees to the town lawyer. This came as an unexpected expense as legal fees were not mentioned when LACAC was given its budget. The year 1980 is therefore starting off with the work of five houses already done.

The chairman, Mrs. Marion Garland, asked to be relieved of her chair as she has other commitments and has been chairman for two years since LACAC started.

The new executive is chairman, Tom Long; vice-chairman, Pierre St. Laurent; secretary, Frankie Liberty.

Wall of Historic House Collapses

A large portion of the west wall in the historic 1858 home, Fairmount, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lawson, collapsed in January leaving a gaping hole in the side of the house.

An insulation company had drilled holes from the outside of the house through eighteen inches

of wall and pumped in ureaformaldehyde foam. The walls were comprised of a unique construction known as Fowler's Mix which was comprised of a very dry lime mixed with rubble and horse hair added to the mixture as a binding agent.

An article by Peter John Stokes warning against this very procedure was printed in a previous ACORN.

The Architecture of Northumberland County

On February 28th, Pierre St. Laurent gave a most interesting slide show of the houses and buildings of Northumberland County including those in Port Britain, Port Hope, Cobourg, Grafton, Colborne, Salem, Brighton, Campbellford, Roseneath, Centreton, and north along Highway 28. Interesting details of the various architectural styles were pointed out adding greatly to the enjoyment of the evening. Light refreshments were served by members of the branch.

The Firehall

The Firehall Committee have sent applications to the Ontario Heritage Foundation and Wintario for assistance to revitalize this building. On the first floor there will be public space with access to washrooms for the handicapped. The Chamber of Commerce plan to move back to their 'old home'. The Management Committee is about to embark on a fund-raising campaign to match Wintario grants and already several donations of \$1000. to \$1,500 have been received or pledged. If anyone wishes to help this cause he may send his donation to Mr. Clare Kappler c/o the Editor-in-Chief of ACORN.

The Firehall Festivities

On May 10 the branch is holding a day of entertainment. The fun will include a tour of houses and gardens, including a fine tea which will be held at Penryn Park. For those who have never seen this interesting house, a chance to see through the various rooms is planned. Music will be offered through the tea hour by various groups, home baking will be sold, displays and sales of local art are in the planning.

TORONTO REGION

Deco and Other Arts

"Deco Sunday" it was called when the Toronto ACO Branch met January 20 for George Rust-D-

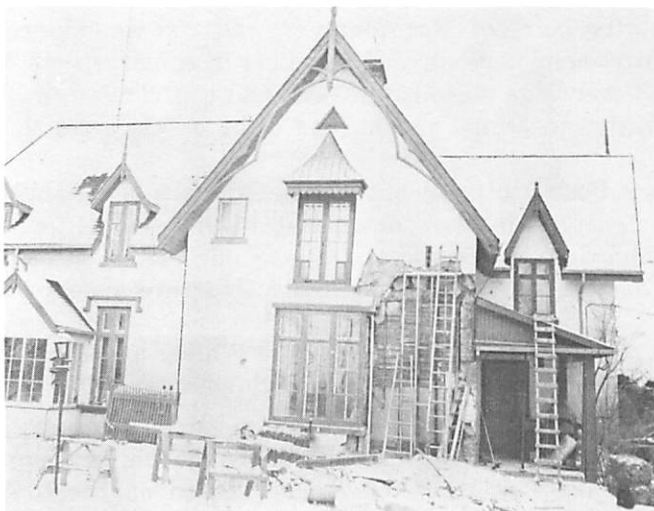


Photo by Jim Cutting

Eye's programme in Toronto architecture of the 1920's and 30's. Highlighted by photographs of the Toronto Stock Exchange, old Bank of Commerce Tower, former Globe and Mail Building, and Concourse and Victory Buildings, the programme captured the richness of architectural design and detailing in Toronto between the Wars. Mr. Rust-D-Eye stressed, moreover, that such richness was not reserved for "prestige" buildings alone, but extended to more commonplace structures such as factories, warehouses, movie theatres, and apartment blocks, all of which became vehicles for the freedom of artistic expression which followed the demise of the Beaux Arts style. Several excellent examples of the results of this freedom remain in Toronto, and doubtless many of these will be the local points of preservation battles in the not-so-distant future.

HERITAGE CAMBRIDGE



Heritage Cambridge has been busy on several fronts, though the results are not final yet. The future of the area along the Grand River is of special concern to us right now. We retained the firm of Barton Myers Associates, well known architects in the field of restoration, to do a study for the treatment of the Queen's Square riverbank area, on the south side, where two houses are to be torn down. The Grand River Conservation Authority has already torn down a large number of houses on the riverbank and intends to construct walls and levees for flood control. In most places these walls and berms would cut off the views of the river and drastically change the character of the whole place. Buildings are not our only concern. The river is an important part of our heritage. Heritage Cambridge is anxious to save existing good buildings along the river (there are few left) and try to co-ordinate them into a series of parks and public recreation areas which could make the riverbank a living and useful part of the city, and not cut the river off from the town. On Wednesday, March 5th, Heritage Cambridge presented a brief on Core Area Re-development urging the need for a heritage policy as part of the plans for the revitalization of downtown Cambridge.

Heritage Cambridge Meetings

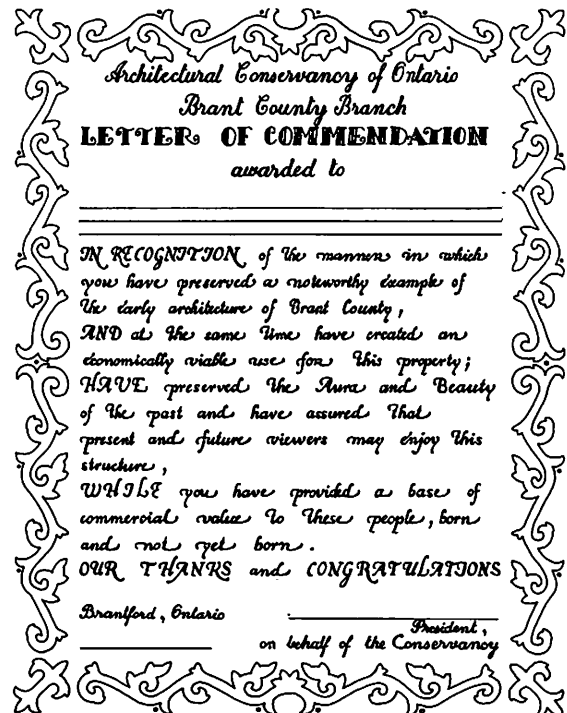
At our pre-Christmas meeting Pierre St. Laurent of the Port Hope Branch gave a slide-

illustrated lecture on the influence of French Architecture in Canada. Mr. St. Laurent is an excellent photographer, and he gave a most stimulating and interesting presentation. Punch and Christmas goodies turned the social hour which followed into a party.

In February we met to view an excellent film on "Stations", showing the many innovative treatments of recycled, previously abandoned, railroad stations across the United States.

BRANT COUNTY

This branch has had a successful fall season. A bus-load of voyageurs visited key historical and architectural sites in the area on Saturday, September 12. Don Pettitt, President, served as guide. Heritage Inn, Mt. Pleasant, was the main stop, where a delightful luncheon was served. Mr. Bob Mueller, proprietor of the Inn, was pleased to accept one of the Branch's Commercial Awards from Don Pettitt, who also explained the purpose of the awards, namely to recognize structures whose owners have retained the original spirit of the builder's design, and, in the case of a commercial building, made it economically viable in our day and age.



Heritage Inn is an eight-sided building, with exterior gothic details. Also neo-gothic in design is the Bell Homestead, also visited on the tour. Details of interior furnishings are particularly authentic. Newport Potteries were visited, unfor-

tunately not in operation at present. The Mohawk Chapel with its 18th century artefacts was included in the tour. The chapel is the oldest religious establishment in Ontario. Chiefswood, the home of the Indian poetess Pauline Johnson, is notable for its dual façades, one facing the river (in early days the main travel route), and one the road. The village of Middleport was also visited, with a stop-over at the mid-19th century Anglican Chapel.

The September 8 visit of the A.C.O. to Brantford has already been touched upon in the last issue of "ACORN." The Glenhyrst Arts Council has its home at Glenhyrst, a 1920's mansion owned by the City. The local Branch of the Conservancy is a member of the Council and was pleased to have the use of the mansion, which is also used as an art gallery, and grounds, in which to entertain its guests from the Ontario Council of the Conservancy. Following the business meeting and Conservancy-catered luncheon, guests were taken on a walking tour of the Dufferin Terrace area by Garry Burns, local art-teacher and architectural historian. The local branch was pleased at the favourable comments of their guests.

The October Annual Meeting, again at Glenhyrst, saw the election of officers, and the appointment of an Executive Secretary. A slide show, prepared and presented by Ruth McGill, from resources supplied by the Royal Ontario Museum, was well received. The presentation highlighted plans for the museum's expansion which involve infill rather than demolition and reconstruction. One feature of the plans of interest to conservationists is the use of the present exterior arcading as a background for contemporary glass construction in the atrium areas. A residential award was presented to Mrs. Sam Wyatt, co-owner with her husband of Echo Villa, an early 19th century dwelling house on Colborne East.

The General Meeting for November featured a slide show on Historic Properties, Halifax. Wendy Bethune was convenor and researcher for the event. We are hoping that an account of the evening, which appeared later in the "Expositor," will influence the developer and architect of the proposed Brantford redevelopment project for the downtown to incorporate our older structures, as was done in Halifax to the advantage of all concerned: merchants, historians, conservationists, developers, and especially tourists, who throng to the re-cycled area every summer. A re-cycled structure in Brantford, The Wine Gallery, which used to be a coach house for the burned-out Kerby

Hotel, received one of the Branch's Commercial Awards at the time of the November meeting. It is now a gift shop run by the Sterne family.

The annual Church Tour in December attracted about 100 people to St. Joseph's Roman Catholic and Brant Avenue United Churches. The respective clergy, Father Chester Chmurny and Rev. Lloyd Brown, explained the architecture and symbolism of their respective churches, one in the Neo-Romanesque, and one in the Neo-Gothic style. Each church was presented with an Ecclesiastical Award by Lou Marselje, Branch Vice-President.

The Branch continues to fight the closing of Grand River Avenue, a city traffic outlet, which, if closed, would cause congestion of industrial traffic on historic streets in the Dufferin Terrace area, leading to the deterioration of architecturally significant properties. The visit of the Ontario Council A.C.O. to this area and statements of its value provincially and nationally by the members of this body have helped in the struggle of the local branch. The city has now proceeded formally to close the street in question, by means of a Tribunal composed solely of City Council. The legal procedure used is open to question and a group of concerned citizens, some of them members of the Conservancy, have acquired legal counsel and the matter is now before the courts.

The downtown situation in Brantford has taken a new twist with the termination in November of the city's agreement with Homestead Developments. A new developer, Campeau Corporation, has been engaged, and the assurance that an Eaton's store will be part of the development is both good and bad. The government loan for the project has been doubled in promise, but the city must still guarantee its portion of the funds. The good news is that the new arrangement still leaves hope of some of the heritage core structures being saved, but the bad news is that an additional block, containing a Georgian-style commercial terrace, will be required for the new department store. Whether this terrace, or indeed any of the core heritage structures can be saved remains to be seen. 17-31 Colborne Street has now been demolished for the projected ring road which is to surround the city core. These buildings, though in poor condition, effectively terminated the commercial area and their loss is felt by the Conservancy Preserve Downtown committee and like-minded citizens.

Elsewhere in the city, a Conservation Review Board held in October declined to recommend designation of Yates Castle, a Victorian mansion

owned by a former railway baron Henry Yates. Although the building has fallen on evil days because of indifferent upkeep, Peter Stokes, who was at this time President of the Ontario A.C.O. attended the hearings and testified to the architectural worth of the structure. A purchaser is being sought who would be interested in restoration.

Workshop Outing

In early January the Brant County Branch organized a workshop outing to the residence of the Rev. and Mrs. Gordon Hoult, who have relocated the former Burford railway station on a beautifully treed ravine lot just west of St. George, Ontario. This natural setting was an excellent foil for the long building with its picturesque railway Gothic detail. Mr. and Mrs. Hoult explained the conversion of the station to a residence, acting as guides to Conservancy visitors, and also provided refreshments. The Hoults have kept a scrapbook of their fascinating project which started with the purchase of the site, the fortuitous acquisition (for \$450.00) of the station just before it had to be moved, the story of the relocation and gradual conversion of the structure since the 1977 moving. Its barn-like interior has been transformed into more intimate spaces — the waiting room to a recreation room, the ticket area to a cozy study and hobby space, the baggage room into a two level lobby with a central fireplace. The loading platform has become an attractive winter garden, the freight area a dinette, bedroom and bathroom, and the coal store an efficient galley kitchen papered in a railway theme. Although the neo-Gothic vault has been preserved as a decorative feature, heavy insulation has been applied. Upstairs is a music room with a gallery connecting two extra bedrooms. Various original pieces were re-used, such as the tongue and groove finish to the exterior overhang now serving as interior finish after being carefully scraped and sanded board by board. Freight doors have become closet doors.

The furnishings compliment this intriguing interior. Many are older pieces, some from the family. Mrs. Hoult's decorative touch includes her own creations, which add to the pleasure of the place. A banner in strong colours and displaying Christian symbols occupies its place of prominence (above the central fireplace) as the significance of the family's life. Not only is the fireplace supplementary heating, but the station stove, a pot-bellied type, also can serve this purpose, and a Franklin stove is in the recreation area. All these use dead wood cut nearby, to help offset furnace heating.



The rockery plants forming a glorious display in spring and summer in front of the "station-house," were given to Mr. and Mrs. Hoult by their former St. George parishioners from their own gardens. One special highlight, particularly to Audrey Scott's eight year old son, was the train whistle, the "bell" at the entrance, whose sound heralded the end of a fascinating visit to this imaginative re-cycling of a former railway station. Such skill, enterprise and innovation in the preservation of our heritage deserves recognition. The Brant County Branch of the ACO, impressed by this project, presented an award to Mr. and Mrs. Hoult. Their work fitted so well the criteria in their careful handling of the conversion to be complimentary to the original purpose, appearance and style while conserving an older building (considered no longer useful by some), as a part of our heritage.

PJS for AS

HURON COUNTY

Goderich

The Goderich LACAC hoped to be the sponsor of the first Heritage District Conservation Area in the province with the designation of the 1/3 square mile core of the town. It contains the central octagon with radiating streets which was laid out in 1829 by the Canada Company and is unique in Canada.

The LACAC, with the assistance of the Huron

County Planning Department and Nicholas Hill, Architect and Planner, prepared a draft Heritage District Conservation Plan for the town Square. It met with opposition, however, from one member of Town Council who insisted on one public meeting after another on the matter. Finally on December 10, 1979, the enabling policy which indicated that Council favours the designation in principle was passed.

Heritage District Conservation designation is a complicated and lengthy process at best. Two Ministries are involved: Housing in respect to official plans, and Culture and Recreation regarding designation. Finally the Ontario Municipal Board has to approve designation by-laws for Heritage District Conservation plans.

Council's acceptance in principle has cleared the way for presentation to the Ontario Heritage Branch of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation of the proposal for its comments. When the comments are returned they will be reviewed by the LACAC and Town Council. When Council has approved the final draft it will then have to pass by-laws designating certain individual buildings and groups of buildings within the area. These are then circulated to affected property owners who have 21 days to lodge any objections. Where objections are unresolvable at the local level a hearing of the O.M.B. is required.

Although Heritage District designations are not part of official plans, the Ministry of Housing has to approve the local policy enabling designation (passed by Council in December, 1979). The policy is now with that Ministry.

Although the principle of Heritage District conservation has been accepted by the Goderich Council it will be some time yet before the process is complete. In the meantime a draft Heritage District Conservation Plan for the hamlet of Barrifield in Pittsburgh Township, Frontenac County, has been endorsed by the Ministry of Culture and Recreation. It will be interesting to see which locality fights its way through the maze of legislation, to finish first.

February 1980 —

Progress Report on the Van Egmond House

A visit to the Van Egmond House during these barren winter months will reveal the productive bustle of restoration work. The Foundation has authorized work in Phase II of the restoration proposals. Included in the current construction tasks are the replacement of the heating plant, installation of unobtrusive duct-work, reparations to the electrical system, instal-

lation of security devices, and other "hard" service requirements.

Architectural and structural restoration will also include the replacement of the kitchen ceiling, limited re-plastering, the replacement of the original exterior shutters, and reconstruction of the original window lights surrounding the massive front door.

When Spring finally arrives, the most visible change in the exterior will occur. After extensive archaeological work undertaken by the Indian Archives Museum of UWO, the dimensions and structural design features of the original Georgian front porch have been determined.

The archaeological dig revealed a number of significant findings. The original dry-laid stone foundations for the full-width front porch were found. They were largely intact and will be fully restored. The presence of significant amounts of copper in various forms has helped the Foundation determine that copper sheathing is the proper material for finishing the porch roof. Remnants of toys, pipes, china and other household items are helping to fill in gaps about the Van Egmond lifestyle in the 19th Century.

The Van Egmond restoration project may be completed by the end of 1980. Successful fundraising will determine whether the major remaining construction item will be completed. This is the addition of an historic, yet functional carriage house structure at the rear of the building. The addition will house washroom facilities, a storage area and provide a gathering place for group tours. One significant inclusion will be the incorporation of the original circular cistern lid into the floor of the addition.

Visitors are encouraged during the restoration process.

Seaforth

The LACAC in Seaforth is presently preparing a heritage statement for submission to the planning board who are working on updating Seaforth's official plan for the use of Seaforth's town council. It is hoped that Seaforth's main street will be designated a heritage district.

Two of Seaforth's designated heritage houses are presently being offered for sale.

The historic Whitman House on Goderich Street East has recently changed hands. The LACAC has endeavoured to have it designated, but council refused to do so without the written permission of the owner. It is hoped to obtain this permission next summer.

Exeter

Things are going well in Exeter, and the formal opening of the town hall is expected to be in the early summer.

Clinton and Bayfield

All seems to be quiet at these two places, although good news is expected for the next issue of ACORN.

JACK (J.D.) HERBERT

It was with great sadness that we learned at the 1979 Heritage Canada meeting in Victoria, B.C. that Jack (J.D.) Herbert, Chief of National Historic Sites during the 1960s, had died in early September. It was he who gathered a staff of dedicated professionals and hard workers around him to make that division such a progressive force in preservation at that time. We particularly remember his confidence in embryo preservationists at the early stage of their careers; it was he who gave the first commission to our office — the study of the Sir John Johnson House of the 1780s at Williamstown, Glengarry. But for his many acts of faith, preservation in Canada would not be so far ahead. After leaving the Federal Government J. D. Herbert was concerned with new provincial museums in Manitoba and British Columbia. He will be missed, but never forgotten by those who enjoyed his encouragement, help and guidance.

Peter John Stokes

GUELPH vs. CANADA TRUST

In May of last year, officials of Canada Trust announced their intention to demolish their present downtown Guelph branch, a 130-year-old stone structure on historic Wyndham Street. The building would be replaced, they proudly announced, with a totally "modern" one, complete with pre-cast concrete facing panels.

Canada Trust's announcement was a painfully ironic one for individuals and groups interested in the retention of Guelph's unique architectural character, since Toronto-Dominion had recently received a local award for painstakingly restoring their own banking premises at the opposite end of the same Wyndham Street block.

In what is by now an all-too-familiar scenario, heritage preservation groups, led by the local

LACAC, quickly rallied in hopes of convincing the Bank to re-cycle the old building instead, thus preserving Ontario's last remaining fully-intact, pre-Confederation stone commercial block. It is unlikely, however, that either of the opponents in the ensuing struggle realized at that time what a curious (and, from a preservation standpoint, perhaps disastrous) chain of events would follow.

In early September, after several meetings involving members of the LACAC, City officials, representatives of Canada Trust, and their architect, it became obvious that no compromise solution would be reached. At that point, City Council, following the LACAC's recommendations, advertised their intent to designate the Bank's property under the Heritage Act. By October 8, the deadline date for registering objections to the proposed designation, came and went without even the mildest of protests from Canada Trust. City Council met the following week to consider proceeding with designation, but decided to defer action until arguments for and against could be heard. At the Council's October 29 meeting, such arguments were presented, and when the issue was brought to a vote, the result was a 6-6 deadlock. By Council rules, a motion is deemed lost under such circumstances, and a subsequent motion to allow issuance of a demolition permit within 30 days passed 6-5. At its next meeting on November 5, Council voted 7-5 in favour of withdrawing notice of its intent to designate.

In response to well-organized local protests, Council agreed to hear further arguments concerning retention of the building at its November 19 meeting, but, in the end, stood by its original decision to allow Canada Trust to demolish.

Subsequent efforts by the Guelph Heritage Committee, a group of particularly concerned citizens, to convince the Bank's directors to reconsider their decision have been fruitless to date. Newspaper articles, editorials, and letters from various preservation groups to the editors of the Guelph "Mercury" and Toronto "Globe and Mail" appear to have had little if any success. Canada Trust now has a demolition permit, and latest reports indicate that they will proceed with demolition in early May. Can nothing stop misguided "progress?"

Kent Rawson

NEWS FROM OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

HERITAGE CANADA

The ACO was represented by a number of members at the 1979 Annual General Meeting of

Heritage Canada held in Victoria, B.C. Mrs. Jeanne Minhinnick (Hamilton-Niagara Branch) received the Gabrielle Léger Medal in recognition of her illustrious career in preservation, the award being presented by Mme. Léger at a reception in Government House on the 18th of October. There were such old friends as Mrs. Cyril Inderwick from Perth, Mrs. Dorothy Wallace and Mr. and Mrs. Nick Hill from the Huron County Branch, Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge from the London Region Branch. Even the President of the ACO managed to slip away from Ontario for a couple of days. Others well known from the Province included Mrs. Katherine Smale from Simcoe and Dr. Margaret Angus from Kingston. The program included technical subjects (Acorn's article on insulation was apparently made available to those interested) as well as tours of Vancouver, Victoria, the Parliament buildings and Butchart Gardens. An excellent session on downtown revitalization included dynamic American speakers as well as local practitioners Barton Myers and others. The next annual general meeting will be held, we understand, in Toronto.

HERITAGE OTTAWA

City Grant

At a Board of Control meeting in February, Mayor Marion Dewar and City-Councillors awarded Heritage Ottawa with a \$1,000 grant. Mayor Dewar thanked Heritage Ottawa for the work they have done towards preserving the City's heritage.

"The East Block," a hard-cover publication written by R. A. J. Phillips, past executive-director of Heritage Canada, is available at the Schoolhouse Gallery, at \$5.00.

Martineau Hotel

The question arose whether or not the Martineau Hotel on Murray Street is still to be considered of heritage value even though a considerable amount of the interior was destroyed by fire. LACAC is of the opinion that the fire did not detract from the heritage quality of the building as the exterior stonework was a major factor in the decision to designate.

Plaquing

Upon designation of a heritage property a plaque will be issued by the Plaquing Committee of LACAC. The solid bronze plaque will contain

the name of the house and the date in which it was built. The owner of the property will receive a letter from LACAC Chairman, Georges Bedard giving him/her a choice in location for mounting the plaque.

ONTARIO MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

Heritage Co-Ordination Committee

This committee, organized by the Ontario Museum Association, is an excellent idea. It is aimed at co-ordinating the activities of many groups interested in history and conservation. Architectural Conservancy's president, W. J. Moffet is a member of the board.

THE AURORA AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The announcement of this society's Seminar came too late for the IV-3 issue of ACORN and by the time this has gone to press, the seminar will be over. However, it looked most interesting and instructive: "Presence of the Past: A Practical Seminar for the Owners of Older Buildings." The slide presentations included "Victorian and Early Twentieth Century Architectural Styles." "The Buildings of Aurora," "Maintaining and Preserving Exterior Features." The seminar was held on Saturday, February 16.

THE CANADIAN HERITAGE OF QUEBEC

In his eighteenth annual report, the president, Colin J. G. Molson, wrote, "Late last autumn through Mr. Guy C. Smith formerly of Quebec City now living in Brockville, we heard of a young man, Mr. Michael Dawson living in Ottawa, who had become interested in thatching. He went over to England and spent two and a half years as an apprentice with a firm of thatchers. He is now qualified and anxious to reintroduce thatching in this country. He has not yet had a contract so we decided to give him his first one: to do the Bherer Barn roof, south side only, which faces the road. The building is 90 feet long and 25 feet wide. The roof rafters are 17 feet long. As the thatchers customarily work in pairs, Mr. Dawson has a partner in England who will come out here to work with him. The partner is an older and more experienced man. One of the problems they had to solve was, as with us, the question of straw. In England they use preferably and chiefly marsh reeds. These are found to last much longer, and are longer in length than either rye or wheat straw, the other two sources of suitable material.

Mr. Dawson discovered that there were large quantities of suitable marsh reeds in the marshes around Winnipeg. The difficult item then became how to harvest them. He was able to develop a suitable method for harvesting and bringing out the reeds and he cut and piled in the marsh a substantial quantity of reeds, ready to bring out when needed. These had to be brought out before the spring thaw while the marshes were still frozen. When the time came to bring them out, however, Winnipeg was being buried in the recent heavy snow falls that occurred there, and it was impossible to get into the marsh. So again we appeared to be blocked. However, Mr. Dawson had a quantity of reeds in Ottawa to do a house of his own, and these he is sending down next week. In the meantime our contractor has been busy putting in new and stronger rafters, as the existing ones were too thin, and some of them were broken and spliced.

That about completes the barn roof story up to the present time, and we are hoping to be able to report next year a happy ending of the story and a winter's experience with it. We understand that a thatched roof made from marsh reeds can last up to 70 years in England without renewal".

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF ARCHITECTURE IN CANADA

1980 Annual Meeting

The S.S.A.C. annual meeting is to be held in Montreal, May 28-June 2. Attendance and participation of any interested LACAC members is welcomed. For further information write to:

George Kapelos,
1980 Meeting Chairman,
95 Hazelton Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M5R 2E4

AROUND AND ABOUT:

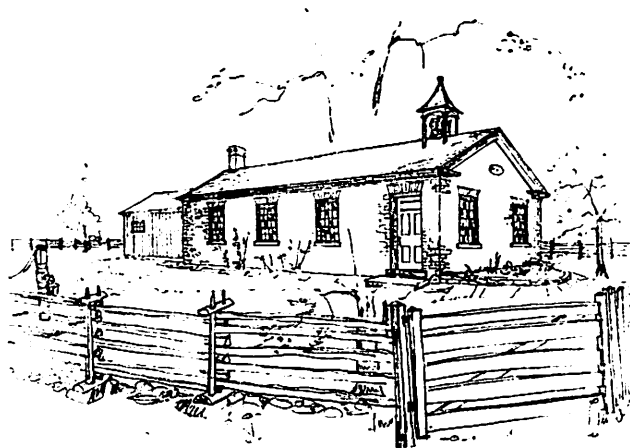
Happenings in Ontario

AMELIASBURG

A report of the Advisory Board recommending preservation of the tower and steeple of the Old Methodist Church of 1868, now the main building of the Ameliasburg Museum, has achieved its object: repairs on the structure are proceeding as financial assistance is arranged.

At the west end of the village of Ameliasburg another historic structure, the old public school, was threatened. This, another notable community

landmark, is being investigated by the Seventh Town (Ameliasburg) Historic Society with a view to its continued use and progressive refurbishing. The sketch shows the exterior of the building from the south-east, the older section to the left, the front with its side entrances and adjoining windows added later in the 19th century.



THE OLD SCHOOL — Ameliasburg, Ontario
PJS/CRA 31 July 1979

AMHERSTBURG

The Heritage Conservation District Study and Plan have been prepared by the Kleinfeldt Group for part of the historic area of Amherstburg following a previous examination of a smaller segment and inventory of the old town area. The Plan is now under review, we understand.

AYLMER

A Conservation Review Board Hearing was held in the Town Hall (the former Post Office) in Aylmer to hear objections to the Town of Aylmer's intention to designate the old Town Hall and Opera House of 1873 as a building of historical and architectural value, under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. The meeting began sharply at 10:00 a.m. under the chairmanship of Dr. J. J. Talman. The three witnesses on behalf of the town were introduced by Councillor Blair Barons, and included Paul Baldwin, a teacher in the local high school, who presented a detailed background history of the building, including the facts that the ground floor housed council room, municipal offices and cells originally, and that in 1877 a library and reading room was operated by the Mechanics Institute there, the building also serving as a post office and a market existing to the rear of the building about the same time. Inci-

mentally one new use for the ground floor now being suggested is for the local library. (We also learnt that the addition to the front had been built as late as 1911; previously we had noted it as 1903). Mr. Peter McLay, a local businessman and native of Aylmer contributed further information on the importance historically of the Old Town Hall and Opera House to the community. Comments on the architectural value of the building were presented by Peter John Stokes and the following is the essence of those remarks:

The Town Hall and Opera House designed by Thomas Woester, a native of England, and constructed in 1873, is an excellent example of the later 19th century civic building. The combined uses of municipal offices, council chamber (presumably serving on occasion as a courtroom) and firehall are typical of such multipurpose structures. The inclusion of the Opera House on the second floor was to make this the civic centre of a small, yet growing community.

The Italianate design, the simple lower storey surmounted by a magnificent range of tall Florentine windows to the Opera House, arcaded brickwork and boldly modelled cornice, is a distinguished architectural composition. With its original porch and belfry it was a handsome building indeed. The interior of the Opera House has been modified since its construction to provide more seating and an enlarged stage, but the delight of its interior has been preserved despite these changes. However the rather awkward 1903 front addition has marred the original slightly.

The 1870s was a great building period for the music hall and Opera House. Before the grand public space on the top floor of the principal public building was often called the Assembly Room, that in Aylmer was originally described as the Audience Room, but by 1883 it was described, in invitations to events there, as the Opera Hall, as exemplified in the Galt (now Cambridge) City Hall of 1857 where the whole third floor was a single space since converted to the council chamber. An earlier prototype is the ballroom or concert hall of the St. Lawrence Hall in Toronto (1848-50) or the concert room of Victoria Hall in Cobourg (1856-60) which was converted to an opera house in 1879. Regrettably many of these Victorian opera houses have been lost such as Merkley's Music Hall (1878) in Morrisburg and Bradburn's Opera House (c. 1875) in Peterborough. Others are disused although still standing; for example that above the Royal Bank (O'Neill's Music Hall, 1871) in Port Hope. Very few have been saved, but Meaford preserved its early 20th century opera house and that in Petrolia's Victoria Hall

of the 1880s, by the London architect Durand, has been restored. The Opera House in Gravenhurst of c. 1900 has been refurbished, and is now regularly used, that in Orillia of c. 1895 also preserved.

Few opera houses have the pleasing scale and great charm of that in Aylmer. For its own sake it is well worth preserving as an example of the best of the mid-Victorian opera house. Aylmer's Town Hall and Opera House of 1873 is the epitome of the proud civic building of its day and an excellent representative of the building heritage of Ontario.

The position of the building on the town square, with the old post office preserved nearby as the present municipal offices, the small public space adjoining and the central area amenities around make it a focus for Aylmer Schemes explored for its rehabilitation and enhancement recently should at least demonstrate that the Old Town Hall and Opera House is a building with not only a past, but also a future. Such a structure, for its intrinsic architectural merit, and historic interest as Aylmer's first and only special civic building, deserves to be designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Peter John Stokes,
Consulting Restoration Architect

Four people rose to voice objections to the designation principally on the grounds of the economics of possible schemes being put forward to convert the building to new uses. One objector could not deny the historical or architectural value of the building while the others personally did not like the building but could make no further comment as to its merit compared to similar buildings. However from the fact that such civic buildings were fast disappearing and that the Opera House represented a particularly fine example of its type it became clear that the Old Town Hall and Opera House, while of great importance to the Town of Aylmer, could also be considered to be of Provincial significance.

An excellent and succinct summary was presented in support of the Town's designation by Councillor Barons. It would appear that Aylmer's Old Town Hall and Opera House now has more than just a fighting chance to survive as the Town itself joins its citizen-fighters in this preservation cause. The report on the hearing has been prepared and will be in the hands of the Town of Aylmer presently.

(It is fascinating to note the terms used for large rooms, usually attached to or part of a civic building, or places built for public assemblies. In Aylmer it was christened as the Audience Room

in 1874 when the building was finished. Within ten years it was called the Opera Hall, and now it is generally referred to as the Opera House. Earlier terms were the Ballroom (perhaps illustrated by Toronto's St. Lawrence Hall 1848-50), the Assembly Room (as existed in Galt's City Hall of 1857), or the Concert Room (Cobourg's Victoria Hall 1856-60). In 1871, Port Hope had its Music Hall block with the Grand Opera House, privately built, as was Merkley's Music Hall of 1878 in Morrisburg. In 1879-80 Victoria Hall's magnificent Concert Room (the grandest space of its time in Canada West, we believe) was converted to an Opera House. By the 1870s the term Opera House seems generally in use for both private and public spaces of this kind used principally for entertainments by travelling troupes, and local groups. For a short period in the early 20th century these served as picture houses — forerunner of the movie house and cinema, yet another development for a new industry. Most of the Opera Houses were of combustible construction often with too restricted exit according to modern standards: so many have been lost as a result.

BARRIE

A citizens' group, angered by the Ontario Government's refusal to grant a public hearing into a proposed \$29-million redevelopment project, is taking Housing Minister Claude Bennett to court.

An application for a judicial review filed in Divisional Court on behalf of the Association of Barrie Citizens, says Mr. Bennett acted contrarily to the planning act when he approved a three-block downtown residential area for redevelopment despite more than 100 letters and a 1,000-name petition objecting to the scheme.

Barrie City Council submitted the redevelopment proposal to the ministry after several public meetings at which the association opposed planned demolition of 50 homes, some more than 100-years-old, to make way for a shopping mall, a high-rise residence and a parking lot.

Association lawyer Dennis Wood said the minister is obliged to refer approval for redevelopment to the Ontario Municipal Board if a hearing is requested.

BOWMANVILLE

Owners of four buildings at the Wellington and Division Streets intersection may soon need town council's permission to do much more than paint the structures.

The quartet of buildings has been deemed

architecturally significant and may soon be protected from demolition and exterior alterations. The four buildings in the district are known as Prower House, Octagon House, Waltham Cottage and Trebilcock House.

The request to conserve the buildings comes from Newcastle's LACAC. Newcastle council recently approved a request to take the steps necessary to make the properties a heritage conservation district. The Octagon House, once a church, is now divided into four apartments.

BROUGHAM

The Bentley House, set back in a well-treed plot on the south-west corner of Brock Road and Highway 7 in this community, is an excellent example of the fine mid-19th century house in the local decorative brickwork of "white" and red patterning. This is a handsome structure, maintained in good order externally, with a five bay front of two storeys, a prominent central door-case and wide window above, the eaves with brackets below a hipped roof crowned with a belvedere and with end chimneys. It is hoped that despite the destruction of Brougham and other area communities in the wake of the proposed Pickering airport and North Pickering project, (the latter renamed Seaton), at least this landmark could be saved in situ to remind those who follow that good building was once a mark of the locality.

At last the small collection of other representative buildings preserved from the area has been relocated on a new site just south of Highway 7 at the western end of the Greenwood by-pass to the east of Brougham.

CAMPBELLFORD

The symbol of this town's industrial prowess, the 1881 textile mill at the main corner beside the Trent Canal, is now but a memory. The possibilities for imaginative re-use its grand spaces would have provided can no longer be explored. Another landmark lost! Even those hoping to save the hotel incorporated into the complex failed to strike a responsive chord. The disappearance of this large building group makes a tremendous hole in the centre of the town; we realize how important such industrial monuments are to older factory communities and the devastating effect their removal must have on the northern mill towns of England, as much as, if not more than ours.

COBOURG

Phase 3 of the Restoration of Victoria Hall is gathering momentum as architects Howard D. Chapman and Howard V. Walker take charge of the project. We wish them all speed and success in the conclusion of this worthwhile preservation.

DOON

A Kitchener historical committee will take steps in the future to designate the Homer Watson house in Doon under the Ontario Heritage Act. The city's LACAC has also been informed that provincial grants will be available to restore parts of the interior. The 145-year-old house and studio was the home of Homer Watson, one of Canada's foremost landscape painters until his death in 1936.

GUELPH

An Eyesore Becomes a Beauty

A new era in the history of Guelph's former Wellington Hotel is about to begin. Since the building burned in July of 1975, city planner Norm Harrison said that they have had quite a time keeping the building up because of public criticism. "We could see in our mind's eye a restored building, or we could see a big hole at the end of the street occupied by a one or two-storey modern building that wouldn't really start off the top of Wyndham Street so well. We kept on pushing and pushing various people and the federal government, but it (the restoration) wouldn't have happened without the developers," he said. What appears now at the site is a beautiful, four-storey building that looks like it did when built in the fall of 1877.

After a struggle to preserve what is left of a still fascinating collection of downtown buildings representing the stone architecture of its 19th century heyday Guelph City Council has sounded the death knell on its last most significant and representative Wyndham Street block by not supporting the preservation of the Canada Trust corner at Cork Street. In a surprise vote which had the Mayor casting the tie, curiously in municipal politics constituting a motion lost, those wishing to see the corner building saved were defeated. It is doubly distressing realizing that the Toronto-Dominion Bank won an award for its preservation of the other end of the block only recently and it appeared the tide, even in Guelph, might be turning. Not until the Church

of Our Lady is swamped in towering monstrosities do we believe Guelph will rise again and open its eyes to past mistakes. Pity, just as the Wellington Hotel at the top end of Wyndham Street is being refurbished for government offices after a fire severely damaged the block several years ago. And in case Guelph has forgotten a 1968 study calling attention to this block including the Canada Trust, we still wonder how the magnificent early 19th century concept of the Canada Land Company should have been so violated by its ill-advised successors.

HAMILTON

One of Hamilton's historical homes will be getting a new lease on life when plans to restore the building begin in 1980. The house at the northwest corner of James Street South and Aberdeen Avenue is known as Ballinahinch. Plans call for renovations, landscaping, and the building of a replica of its original coach house, says lawyer Paul Kadlick, the project manager.

KINGSTON

Redevelopment is threatening one of Kingston's historical landmarks. Behind the layers of yellow enamel paint and plate glass windows of Vandervoort Hardware is a fascinating history dating back to 1817. The varied history of the building includes Blanchard's Royal Circus set up in the large yard at the rear in 1826, English classes in 1828, classes in curing stuttering in 1826, a display of legerdemain in 1831, concerts in 1825, an exhibition of calygraphic drawings in 1835, also a musical armchair and a mechanical cock and hen! The building's history continued throughout the 19th century and is now threatened by demolition if Kingstonians allow one of the proposed downtown mall projects to raze the building.

The Old Post Office at the corner of Clarence and Wellington Streets completed in 1858, has been designated as being of national historic significance by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. It will be used in future for offices of the federal government. The work of historic restoration included the installation of windows of the original design, the restructuring of the entrance and portico to the original design and the cleaning of the stonework.

KINSALE

A response by the Advisory Board of the ACO to a request for comments on the proposed widening of a section of Highway 7 from Brougham to Brooklin noted a number of historic houses which might be jeopardized by the proposals. One in question on the south side just west of the hamlet of Kinsale was particularly vulnerable since it was close to the roadway and set below the pavement. Illustrated here is the fine doorcase of this house, probably of the late 1830s, but with details reminiscent of much earlier work and a feature preserved despite aluminum siding and other added "ornament".



DOORWAY, HOUSE — late 1830's - near Kinsale

P.J.S. photo

KITCHENER

Kitchener is expected to have its first officially designated historical property within a month or so: the 131-year-old Free Church in Bridgeport. Badly damaged in a fire in the '60s and now cared for by the Bridgeport Women's Institute, the church is a good choice to launch Kitchener's own heritage program. It was built by settlers from Pennsylvania.

KITCHENER-WATERLOO

Wintario grants totalling \$497,719 have been approved for 19 projects in the Waterloo Region. The largest of \$422,648 goes to Conestoga College in Kitchener to help with the cost of improving access for the handicapped and for program equipment. The Waterloo Regional Heritage Foun-

dation will receive \$49,064 toward the cost of historical restoration of the Schneider House as a living museum and for related equipment.

LINCOLN

The Library Fund Raising Committee advises that to date the sum of \$191,000 has been collected. Public donations to November amounted to \$35,000, a Heritage Foundation grant was \$12,000, the Town of Lincoln commitment was \$100,000 and the Library Reserve Fund amounted to \$44,000. The campaign was to raise funds for an addition and restoration of the main Library in Beamsville.

LONDON

Eight London area contractors are considering making bids for the \$2.2 million Middlesex County courthouse restoration, architect Norbert Schuller said Thursday. Schuller told county council's property committee that eight firms have been issued plans. Plans are to convert the 152-year-old courthouse to county government administrative offices.

Restoration of the 152 year old Middlesex County Courthouse was approved in November by county council, when it awarded the \$2.1 million contract to a London construction firm. The project is scheduled to be completed in a year and will house county administration offices.

MILTON

Proposals for the feasibility study concerning the old Halton County Courthouse in Milton are now being sought by invitation from a number of consultants. This fine building of c.1857, with additions of 1877, is a remarkable design and is one of the best preserved of the older courthouses of the province.

ORANGEVILLE

What is presumed to be the last log house in town was demolished last September. The little house built of squared logs and roofed with wooden shingles was covered by white siding, and a sunporch stretched across its front. The land on which it stood originally belonged to the Ketchum family. Later it belonged to James Murray. He sold the property in 1877 to Michael Longeway who in turn sold it to Annie Saunders. A Mr. Rennick bought it in 1953. It has belonged to Alf Clarke for the past 27 years.

ORILLIA

Historical Designations

The Church of the Guardian Angels and Orillia Presbyterian Church were officially declared as sites of historical and architectural value in a by-law passed by city council. The by-law supports an earlier council committee recommendation to that effect.

OTTAWA

Piet Kimzeke, president of the International Youth Hostel Federation gave support to a renovation project that is turning the old Carleton County jail at 75 Nicholas Street into a youth hostel. The building was constructed in 1862 and served as a jail until 1972. Its most famous inmate was Patrick Whelan who was publicly executed at the jail in 1869 for the assassination of Thomas D'Arcy McGee, one of the Fathers of Confederation. In 1978 the former jail was declared a heritage building by the city of Ottawa.

Ottawa City Council has won a court battle to stop a church from continuing demolition of an historic building — but an Ontario Supreme Court judge found that the municipality “did not cover itself with glory”.

More than half of the 125-year-old Clegg House on Bay Street in Ottawa was demolished by St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in October. This followed a mixup between city departments that resulted in the city's failing to notify the church formally as owners of the house that it had designated the building an historic site under the Ontario Heritage Act. Court was told that the church was never formally told that the city had refused its application for a demolition permit. But Mr. Justice McLeod Craig said in his decision this week that the church was well aware of council's opposition through some of its officers who attended council meetings and through newspaper reports, and therefore received “actual notice” of the demolition refusal. The judge turned down the church's request that he order the city to repeal its by-law that designated the Clegg House a heritage property. The church wanted to clear the property for a parking lot. The building was described in court by City Solicitor Don Hambling as one of the finest examples of pre-Confederation architecture in Ottawa. The city now will continue with its plans to restore the building, Mr. Hambling said. The estimated cost is \$300,000 and the city already has launched a civil suit seeking damages from the church to pay for the restoration. The municipi-

ality also plans to proceed with two charges: the first alleging the church carried out a demolition without a permit, as requested under the Ontario Building Code, the second charging demolition of a protected building under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Although fire recently damaged the 108 year old Martineau Hotel at the corner of Murray and Parent Streets, its bright future has not been greatly affected.

The Hotel, formerly known as “Heritage House”, was recently purchased by By-Mark Developments Inc. and is the principal element in a major Lowertown development.

Reputed to have been used as a brothel in the twentieth century, the Martineau Hotel was constructed in 1871 by its namesake, Eugene Martineau, once Mayor of Ottawa. From 1875 the structure contained four hotels which, like innumerable others in Lowertown West, catered to itinerate raftsmen. A boarding house occupied the premises from 1878-1972 when the building was offered for sale when the then owner died. Sensing that the building was in danger of demolition because of the commercial value of its site, Jack Appleton, a former member of Heritage Ottawa, purchased it in 1977 for use as a national headquarters. Their plans changed and, in the summer of 1979, the Martineau became the property of By-Mark Developments Inc. who also purchased the former Clarence Hotel, a red brick commercial structure to the West of the Martineau on Murray Street, and the parking lot between them. Although the recent fire destroyed the roof and supporting timbers of the Martineau, designers of the project, Eriksson Padolsky Architects, indicate that construction will proceed as planned.

City Public Relations Needed

As an example of the need for better public relations, LACAC members were confronted with a problem which Mr. Joseph Petrie encountered when attempting to renovate his soon-to-be-designated heritage home. Mr. Petrie, owner of 188 St. Andrew Street, contacted the City for advice before commencing renovations early this summer. He was also investigating the possibility of a heritage grant but was never told that he would not be eligible to apply until December 5th when the heritage designation would come into effect.

Wanting to do the right thing by his elderly home, Mr. Petrie requested plans and a survey from the City, for which he paid \$175. and \$150., respectively. These plans were not received for more than two months, some weeks after their

completion.

In the meantime, Mr. Petrie stalled his contractors, waiting for the plans and advice which never came. Time passed and it became too late in the year to begin certain projects — such as roofing and windows — which will now have to wait until next year.

Mr. Petrie contacted LACAC in an attempt to solve his problems. After much discussion and letter-writing, Mr. Petrie now has his plans and his advice. However, the renovations to his home would have been long finished if he had been told, in the first instance, that he could go ahead with any renovations that pleased him because his home is not, as yet, a heritage designated property and does not fall under the restrictions of the Ontario Heritage Act.

OTTERVILLE

Eye appeal in a municipality's core area makes economic sense, the director and professor of the School of Landscape Architecture at the University of Guelph told his audience at a weekend heritage conservation conference in Otterville. "There is economic sense in revitalization," said Mr. Man. "Merchants are also starting to catch on to that fact. They're also starting to realize people are becoming bored with shopping plazas. They're all alike. Most have the same stores. When you've been in one you've been in them all."

In an interview following his seminar, Mr. Man said communities in the U.S. which carried out downtown revitalization projects a good number of years ago now are witnessing a 15% increase in trade.

PERTH

In a narrow 22-19 decision, Lanark County councillors voted to keep two historic cannons here in Perth rather than send them to the War Museum in Ottawa. The vote defeated a resolution that would have sent the cannons to Ottawa in exchange for two exact replicas. Norm Turner led the battle to keep the cannons and said the guns were given to Perth in 1823 and are the property of the town, not the county. The cannons were manufactured in Holland in 1776 and one of the weapons is believed to be the only one of its kind in North America. Turner called for a recorded vote on the issue, "to see who's giving away the heritage of Perth."

PETERBOROUGH

Last September Victoria Park Armory and a portion of the Academy Theatre were slated to

become the first local structures designated as historical sites by the town. The LACAC received approval from council's executive committee to attempt to preserve the buildings for their historical and architectural value.

Public Works Canada has yet to decide on a site for the Peterborough office of Parks Canada. The site ultimately chosen will have to provide up to 40,000 square feet of office space, and Parks Canada has a preference for what they call "heritage accommodation" — a structure built before 1890, or of outstanding architectural or historical significance.

PETROLIA

Petrolia's Playhouse is now officially recognized as a Canadian historical site. The 90-year-old playhouse received the recognition when a plaque from the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada was unveiled at a special ceremony in the building recently.

PORT DALHOUSIE

The old Port Dalhousie Jail will be designated as an historic site, as well as the former rectory of St. John's Anglican Church on Dalhousie Avenue, as the second historic site to be designated in Port Dalhousie and the 16th in the city. The old jail is now being used for storage by The Rowan Sprinkler Co. Ltd.

RICHMOND HILL

Mr. Larry Kelly bought and renovated the historical building which once was called the Stanford Nursing Home. He had assistance from the late Napier Simpson in making sure of the authenticity of the restoration.

ST. GEORGE

The 91-year-old home that will soon house the municipal offices here was once planned for use as a hospital. Sunnyside Lodge on Main Street, purchased in October by the Township of South Dumfries for \$125,000 was built in 1888 by Dr. E. E. Kitchen. He felt that St. George would grow large enough to warrant a medical facility of its own. Dr. Kitchen thought the railroad line would go right through St. George, turning it into a hive of activity. However, the line went south, leaving the village out in the cold. Instead of flourishing, population has remained much the same. The new municipal office, which will be ready for occupancy sometime this year, stands on a wooded lot

filled with stately maple and chestnut trees. A grant may be available from the Ontario Heritage Foundation to assist with renovation and restoration.

SARNIA

New Look Promised for Downtown Streets

Although a decision on a downtown mall remains in limbo, Sarnia has been fortunate to receive substantial federal and provincial funding for other improvements. One of the revitalization's most pressing goals is the proposed downtown centre. The \$2.2 million slate of improvements announced by city council will facilitate major commercial development. Sarnia is one of the first cities in Canada to take advantage of the Community Services Contribution Program. The first phase of the program promises to widen Christina Street to four lanes between London Road and Exmouth Street, to install sanitary and storm sewers in this area, and to expand parking along the waterfront and near Sarnia Public Library. Costs will be paid by Sarnia ratepayers \$577,000, province \$550,000, and federal government \$1.1 million. Community Services Contribution Program dollars, coming on the heels of NIP's demise, will focus on an area overlooked by NIP — the central Sarnia area.

SMITH FALLS

Heritage Bonus

The September 7 Gore Street fire which heavily damaged a nineteenth century landmark has prompted town council to pass a by-law proposed to encourage property owners to maintain their heritage buildings and save money at the same time. The incentive for eligible property owners will come in the form of a municipal tax break. The town is willing to forego tax increases when the assessment of old buildings is increased by improvement. Under terms of the by-law, effective October 23, conditional heritage grants may be issued to owners of designated properties for the purpose of altering, repairing or renovating their buildings. To qualify, the property must be designated of historical value under the Ontario Heritage Act, have a written easement specifying which portions are to be preserved, and be insured for 100% of replacement costs by its owner.

STONEY CREEK

A plan to improve the King Street business area is being considered by members of Town

Council and the Olde Stoney Creek Merchants' Association. Ways of enhancing the old town area were arrived at by Phillips Planning and Engineering Ltd., a consulting firm hired by the Merchants in August of 1977.

THOROLD

The old Thorold firehall will be entering its second century by returning to its original appearance. Renovations to the building, which houses the Thorold Licence Bureau and the offices of architect Grant Sauder, should be ready by next spring.

TORONTO

A building once frequented by pick pockets and murderers now is being praised as an example for Canadian arts groups to follow in the financially uncertain years ahead. Adelaide Court, opened in 1852 as the York County courthouse, has been turned into a revenue-producing co-operative where three small theatre companies share staff, two theatres and a maze of offices and workrooms — some in the original jail cells. Saved from the wreckers and painstakingly restored at a cost of \$2.6 million, the building also shows — with the inclusion of a restaurant and bar — some innovative business savvy on the part of its founders.

The restaurant and bar, operated by a private investor, pay rent and a percentage of profits to the operation — estimated to be about \$80,000 in this first year. Administrators say the arrangement eventually will allow the three theatrical companies to live rent-free.

"It's such a good idea, I can't think why no one has tried it before," says Ron Taylor, the court's managing director.

Taylor, who says that grants from three levels of government, private donations and grants from the Ontario Heritage Foundation paid for the building's restoration, makes no apologies to those who criticize the project's commercial aspects. The building, which gets additional revenue from renting out its theatres to other local and travelling companies, offers another cost-saving device: shared services for the three companies. Instead of each company having to hire its own publicist, wardrobe mistress, carpenters, technicians and maintenance staff, they share all those services.

TYRONE

This fine fieldstone blacksmith shop, illustrated here, graces the main corner of Tyrone, a hamlet in former Darlington Township, north of

Bowmanville. The community still contains a mill and various interesting early buildings including a little changed general store with a very bold cornice treatment. Even if you are not a regular visitor to Mosport, but travel across the southern part of the province, such fascinating villages survive slightly off the beaten path north of Lake Ontario: it is a joy to save gas travelling at an average of 60 to 70 km per hour and seeing a less spoilt countryside.



BLACKSMITH SHOP, Tyrone

P.J.S. photo

UXBRIDGE

The establishment of a LACAC received its official endorsement from council last October. The five-member committee's mandate will be to preserve and protect local landmarks of architectural or historical merit.

WELCOME

An imposing last monument, a rather distinguished example of sepulchral art, stands in the Walker Cemetery in a field on the north side of Highway 2 just west of Welcome. It seems that the day of Hugh Walker's death was never known, but appears to have been about his birthday, for his age is also left blank.

WELLINGTON

Tara Hall is being painstakingly restored and Dan Rainey, principal of Pinecrest Memorial Public School, and his mother Viola are three years into a 10-year project to renovate the rural

manor built in 1839. Tara Hall became the nucleus of Wellington after it was built in 1839. The hall was built for Archibald McFaul, who was born in Ireland in 1800, and came to Canada as a child. The only house in Wellington older than Tara Hall is the 'manor' built around 1764 by Daniel Reynolds, the first white man to come to Prince Edward County. The two-storey house is a fine example of neo-classic architecture.

WEST MONTROSE

The Valley Research Foundation, in its recent newsletter, Valley Views, informs us that the Montrose Environmental Assessment has finally been submitted to the Minister of the Environment for review. The proponent for the scheme to erect a new dam to create a large reservoir near West Montrose is the Grand River Conservation Authority. The purpose is to control the upper waters of the Grand and provide an alternative water supply for the Kitchener-Waterloo area. The proposal affects a large area — almost three thousand acres of prime farmland — involving expropriations — and cutting Pilkington Township in two. Furthermore, there would be a need for considerable improvement to the local urban and rural community outfalls as well as restrictions involving neighbouring agricultural run-off. (The upper limit of the reservoir proposed would come close to the Elora Gorge — the scene of that last battle to protect a Provincially significant place of natural beauty — lost when



WALKER CEMETERY, Welcome

P.J.S. photo

the OMB and the Cabinet failed to respond appropriately.)

Once the Provincial Review is available Valley Research Foundation intends to request the Minister to refer the issue to the Environmental Assessment Board for a hearing. Apparently the Board will deal with both **environmental and planning issues**; in other words there will not be another hearing before the Ontario Municipal Board. There is also the strong possibility that this hearing would take care of any hearing normally required by the Expropriations Act. This one hearing, therefore, will be the only opportunity to present other facts and viewpoints and its great importance is clearly evident.

The Valley Research Foundation requires any financial help it can obtain to help defray expenses incurred so far and to prepare for and appear at the meeting. The total amount sought is \$30,000.00 Your donation, (tax deductible incidentally) would be welcomed by the Foundation.

Furthermore your concerns about the Montrose Dam and Reservoir written to the Hon. Harry C. Parrott, DDS, Minister of the Environment, 135 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario M4V 1P5, would be of great help. It is important, if appearing at the hearing to present your case, that a copy of your presentation be available. But you could also attend as an observer.

PJS

WOODSTOCK

The heritage designation on the George John Vansittart House should not be removed, the Ontario Conservation Review Board has recommended in a precedent-setting decision. It would not be in the best interests of city residents for city council to repeal the designation on the 128-year-old Dundas Street building, the board said in a 25 page report that criticized the city for not having better rapport with its LACAC.

Conservation Discussed

Local Architectural Conservation work was discussed by Emmeline Hedley at the fall meeting of the Volunteer Committee of Woodstock Public Library and Art Gallery. Mrs. Hedley, who is a volunteer member of the Art Gallery as well as a member of the LACAC, showed a slide presentation accompanied by sound produced by LACAC this past summer. The presentation, made possible by a grant from the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation, is the work of Don Milton, a fourth-year student of architecture. The speaker

pointed out that had LACAC existed 25 years ago, many of Woodstock's beautiful examples of early architecture would still be standing.

WOOLWICH

The United Church in Conestogo will be the first building in Woolwich designated as a heritage site if Woolwich council agrees, it was decided in a meeting of the LACAC.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Approaching Ontario's Past

by Frederick H. Armstrong

Approaching Ontario's Past, subtitled Organizing for Preservation, and published in 1978 by the Ontario Historical Society with the help of the Ontario Heritage Foundation, is an informative guide on the approach to and handling of the designation of buildings under the Ontario Heritage Act. It offers explanations of procedures plus comments on ways and means of becoming more effective in preservation generally. Simple and readable for both the novice and the buff, this short pamphlet also offers some sober advice about some preservationists tending to be confirmed antagonists rather than being helpful, imaginative and even conciliatory on occasion. The author, Frederick H. Armstrong, Professor of History at the University of Western Ontario and President of the Ontario Historical Society possibly has first hand experience as Vice-Chairman of London's LACAC. Various useful references to complementary publications in the field are also mentioned.

Canadian Antiques and Art Review

This magazine, a relatively new publication, is a notable addition to our periodical literature, and if the quality and content of its first few issues are maintained will surely find a well-earned respect and many readers not only in Canada, but abroad. The articles are of great interest, well written and copiously illustrated, some in colour. The editor and publisher is Carole Collins. The magazine is published ten times a year, the subscription is \$10.00 in Canada, \$15.00 elsewhere. For further information write to P.O. Box 3664, Halifax South, Nova Scotia B3J 3K6.

The American Fireplace

This book by Henry J. Kauffman, Galahad Books, New York City, 1972 is a fascinating book

on chimneys, mantel-pieces, fireplaces and accessories as its subtitle explains. The text treats early construction and American restorations up to more recent historical material. The book is well illustrated. Although we have not read it yet from cover to cover at least the first dip has been a pleasant one. The odd slip, or rather misinterpretation, was noted, but this did seem to discolour the whole.

Homesteads

by Margaret McBurney and Mary Byers,
University of Toronto Press

West of Herkimer's Nose, a point of land just outside Kingston, three early highways ran to the provincial capital of York — the Danforth Road completed in 1802, the York-Kingston Road finished in 1817, the old Highway 2. Along them sprang up settlements — assemblages of inns, mills, churches, and houses. The Loyalists were early arrivals, followed by immigrant families from across the Atlantic and south of the border. Many of the buildings they erected still stand. They are the subject of this book.

The King's Mill on the Humber (1793-1803)

This is a small paper back book by Mr. Carl Benn, Interpreter at Montgomery's Inn, published by the Etobicoke Historical Society.

The book includes Mr. Benn's text featuring several excerpts from primary resource documents, as well as numerous black and white illustrations and maps. \$2.00 a copy from Montgomery Inn or other Toronto historic sites. Include 25¢ for handling.

STOP PRESS

Due to the disastrous flood which hit Port Hope on Friday, March 21, the Firehall Festivities mentioned in the Port Hope Branch News will have a changed name. The tour will go on, but as the Firehall has been condemned and it is too soon to know its fate, the monies collected from the tour will probably be given to a relief fund. Don't forget the date, May 10.

Interesting to note, it wasn't one of the old Port Hope buildings which fell completely down; it was a three year old new one!

STOP PRESS

The Conservation Review Board has recommended in its report that the Town of Aylmer designate the Old Town Hall and Opera House.



We are receiving requests by mail for copies of ACORN, and also requests to be put on our subscription list. These letters have been answered stating that ACORN is not for sale and suggesting that the writers join the nearest ACO branch and receive three copies a year.



We are always glad to receive pictures which accompany articles. If you wish these pictures returned, please send a stamped, addressed envelope. Ed.

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